

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 05154 311141Z

10

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 /039 W

----- 089031

R 311039Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8040

INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

COMUSFORAZ AZORES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5154

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: GOP PRESIDENT PROTESTS AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE AT
OPENING OF AZOREAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. GOP FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA SUMMONED ME JULY 30. SAID HE REGRETTED THAT HE FOUND HIS FIRST ACT OF BUSINESS AS MINISTER WITH ME DISTASTEFUL BUT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY EANES TO CONVEY TO ME THE PRESIDENT'S SURPRISE (ESTRANHEZA) THAT I HAD ATTENDED THE OPENING SESSION OF THE AZOREAN ASSEMBLY DURING MY VISIT TO THE AZORES THE WEEK OF JULY 15. MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID PRESIDENT CONSIDERED THIS AN AMBIGUOUS ACT AT A SENSITIVE MOMENT.

2. I TOLD MEDEIROS FERREIRA I WAS SURPRISED THAT HE SHOULD EVEN RAISE THIS WITH ME. THE AZOREAN ASSEMBLY WAS AN ORGAN ESTABLISHED BY THE PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION AND THE INAUGURAL SESSION WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. IT HAPPENED THAT I WAS IN THE AREA AT THE TIME AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN INSULT NOT ONLY TO THE AZOREANS BUT TO THE PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION HAD I NOT ATTENDED. THERE WAS NOTHING AMBIGUOUS ABOUT OUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE AZORES, AND HE KNEW IT, AND THERE WAS NOTHING AMBIGUOUS ABOUT MY ATTENDING A MEETING OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 05154 311141Z

THE AZOREAN ASSEMBLY. TO THE CONTRARY IT SEEMED TO ME

THAT SUCH ATTENDANCE SUPPORTED THE SOLUTION OF AUTONOMY EMBODIED IN THE CONSTITUTION. WAS THE GOP PREPARED TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THAT WERE NOT IMPOSED ON OTHER AMBASSADORS? WOULD IT BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN EVORA? MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID OF COURSE NOT, BUT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE. I ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE MADEIRAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY WHEN I TRAVEL TO MADEIRA? HE HAD NO ANSWER.

3. MEDEIROS FERREIRA OBVIOUSLY HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN DEFENDING THE CONSISTENCY OF THE GOP'S POSITION AND HE INDICATED BY GESTURES THAT HE AGREED WITH THE POINTS I WAS MAKING. HE THEN TOLD ME HIS PERSONAL POSITION WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS. IS IT REALLY SO IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO ATTEND THESE SESSIONS, HE ASKED? I CONCEDED THAT IT WAS NOT AND SUGGESTED WE LET THE MATTER DROP. INSTEAD OF PURSUING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR'S CONDUCT I WONDERED WHETHER HE WOULD TAKE AN INTEREST AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE U.S. AID PROGRAM. IF SO, AND I WOULD WELCOME HIS INVOLVEMENT, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO BRIEF HIM FULLY, INCLUDING THE AID PROGRAM FOR THE AZORES. MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID HE WAS INTERESTED AND WE REVIEWED BRIEFLY A NUMBER OF PENDING ISSUES. HE THEN ASKED ME FOR MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE AZORES WHICH I COMMUNICATED FULLY TO HIM. INCLUDED IN THESE WERE EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE BY THE AZOREANS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ALL AID NEGOTIATIONS. I TOLD MEDEIROS FERREIRA I HAD TOLD THE AZOREANS WE WOULD KEEP THEM INFORMED BUT IT WAS NOT UP TO US TO ENFORCE THE PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION. MEDEIROS FERREIRA AT FIRST WANTED TO CHANNEL ALL INFORMATION ON AID PROGRAMS IN THE AZORES THROUGH THE GOP BUT THOUGHT BETTER OF IT AFTER I SUGGESTED THIS WOULD ONLY PROVOKE RESENTMENT IN THE AZORES. HE ALSO AGREED THAT WE COULD CONTINUE OUR DIRECT CONTACT WITH AZOREAN AUTHORITIES BUT WAS OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY SENSITIVE ON THIS POINT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 05154 311141Z

4. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE I HAVE PUT OFF VISIT TO THE AZORES FOR A YEAR AND A HALF TO AVOID CONVEYING ANY ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPRESSIONS. SINCE INDEPENDENCE IS NO LONGER THE ISSUE IT WAS AND THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER, I DID NOT THINK MY PRESENCE AT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED, BUT OBVIOUSLY I WAS MISTAKEN. THE INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES THE EXTREME POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES THAT STILL EXIST HERE, AT LEAST ON THE PART OF THE NEWLY-ELECTED

PRESIDENT. MEDEIROS FERREIRA WAS CAREFUL TO STATE THAT
THE POSITION HE WAS CONVEYING CAME FROM THE PRESIDENT;
HE NEVER ONCE MENTIONED THE PRIME MINISTER OR THE
GOVERNMENT.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AZORES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON05154
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED PER 78 LISBON 1630
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760296-0762
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976072/aaaaaawc.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP PRESIDENT PROTESTS AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE AT OPENING OF AZOREAN REGIONALASSEMBLY
TAGS: PFOR, PO, US, (FERREIRA, MEDEIROS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006